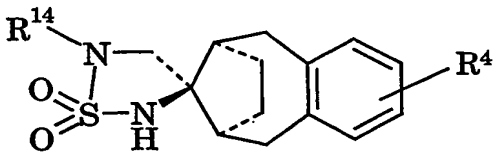
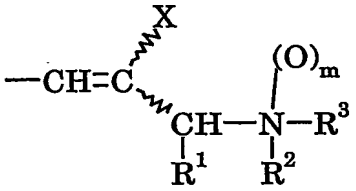
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I:

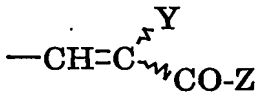


I

wherein R^4 is selected from:



and



;

X represents H, halogen, CN or methyl;

R^1 represents H or C_{1-4}alkyl which is optionally substituted with OH or C_{1-4}alkoxy; or R^1 and R^2 together complete a heterocyclic ring of 3-7 members bearing 0-2 substituents, in addition to R^3, selected from halogen, oxo, NO_2, CN, CF_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}acyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl and Ar;

when R^1 represents H or optionally substituted C_{1-4}alkyl, R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, Ar, heterocyclyl, or heterocyclylC_{1-6}alkyl, wherein the alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups optionally bear one substituent selected from halogen, CF_3, NO_2, CN, Ar, $ArCH_2O$, ArO, $-OR^{11}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{12}$, $-COR^{11}$, $-CO_2R^{11}$, $-CON(R^{11})_2$, $-OCOR^{12}$, $-N(R^{11})_2$ and $-NR^{11}COR^{12}$; and the heterocyclic groups optionally bear up to 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, NO_2, CN, R^{12}, Ar, $ArCH_2O$, ArO, $ArOCH_2$, $-OR^{11}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{12}$, $-COR^{11}$, $-CO_2R^{11}$, $-CON(R^{11})_2$, $-OCOR^{12}$, $-N(R^{11})_2$ and $-NR^{11}COR^{12}$;

or R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen to which they are mutually attached complete a mono- or bicyclic heterocyclic ring system of 5-10 ring

atoms selected from C, N, O and S, said ring system optionally having an additional benzene or heteroaryl ring fused thereto, said heterocyclic system and optional fused ring bearing 0-3 substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, NO_2, CN, R^{12}, Ar, $ArCH_2O$, ArO, $ArOCH_2$, $-OR^{11}$, $-SR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{12}$, $-COR^{11}$, $-CO_2R^{11}$, $-CON(R^{11})_2$, $-OCOR^{12}$, $-N(R^{11})_2$ and $-NR^{11}COR^{12}$;

and when R^1 completes a ring with R^2, R^3 represents H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}acyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl or benzyl;

m is 0 or 1, with the proviso that when m is 1 neither R^2 nor R^3 is H and R^3 is not acyl, and that m is 1 when X and R^1 are both H;

R^{11} represents H or R^{12};

R^{12} represents C_{1-6}alkyl which optionally bears up to 3 halogen substituents or one substituent selected from CN, OH, C_{1-4}alkoxy and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl;

Y represents halogen, CN or methyl;

Z represents OR^{11} or $N(R^5)R^6$;

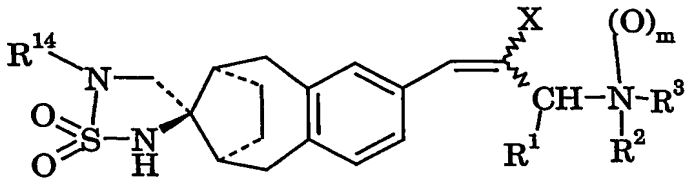
R^5 and R^6 have the same definition as R^2 and R^3 in the embodiment in which R^1 is H or optionally substituted C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{14} represents H or C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, phenyl or benzyl, any of which optionally bear up to 3 halogen substituents or one substituent selected from CN, NO_2, OH, C_{1-4}alkoxy, CO_2H, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{2-6}acyl, C_{2-6}acyloxy, amino, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, C_{2-6}acylamino, carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl and di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl; and

Ar represents phenyl or heteroaryl either of which optionally bears up to 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{1-6}alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 of formula II:



II

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

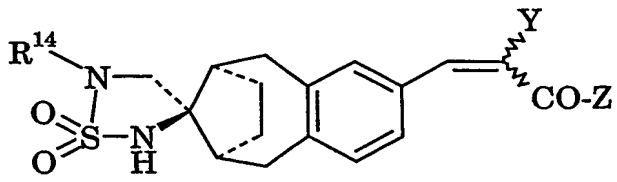
3. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^1 and R^2 complete a heterocyclic ring of 5 or 6 atoms and R^3 represents H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}acyl or benzyl.

4. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^1 is H or optionally substituted C_{1-4}alkyl and R^2 and R^3 complete a heterocyclic ring system.

5. A compound according to claim 4 wherein R^{14} is 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, X is F, CN or methyl, and R^1 is H.

6. A compound according to claim 4 wherein m is 1 and X and R^1 are both H.

7. A compound according to claim 1 of formula III:



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A compound according to claim 7 wherein Y represents F, CN or methyl and Z represents OH, C_{1-6}alkoxy or $N(R^5)R^6$.

9. A compound according to claim 8 wherein R^{14} represents 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl and Z represents ethoxy.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any previous claim and a pharmaceutical carrier.

11. A compound according to any of claims 1-9 for use in a method of treatment of the human body.

12. The use of a compound according to any of claims 1-9 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease.

13. A method of treatment of a subject suffering from or prone to Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to that subject an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims 1-9.